

The FCC is well aware of the pressure Sinclair Broadcasting's is putting on their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election. This is unlawful. I, as a citizen, am depending upon you, as the regulator of commercial television to make it clear that this does not serve the interests of the public. The fine should be large enough to deter any of the stations from interrupting any regularly scheduled programming to air the commercial disguised as a news cast. Especially alarming is the fact that the commercial is disguised as a news report and the paid advertising person posing as the news reporter misleads the public. The reporter should be required to identify himself as a paid political representative. Someone else's voice dubbed in does not serve the same purpose.

This is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Kayana Hoagland